

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A filter cartridge for filtering a slurry composition which comprises

a hollow housing having a first end including an inlet and a second end including an outlet, said hollow housing being filled with a depth filter and being free of an open void volume upstream of said depth filter, which causes separation of a slurry into a particle component and a liquid component said open void volume having a height less than about one inch.

2. (Curently Amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 1 wherein said depth filter is formed of segments separated by annular spacers, said spacers having a thickness less than about 0.12 inch.

3. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of Claim 2 wherein said depth filter segments comprise a wound depth filter comprising nonwoven fibers.

4. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of Claim 2 wherein said depth filter segments comprise a stack of sheets wherein each sheet comprises nonwoven fibers.

5. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of Claim 2 wherein said depth filter segments comprise a fibrous mass of nonwoven polymeric fibers secured together by mechanical entanglement of the fibers.

6. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of anyone of claims 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the ratio of depth filter segment thickness to spacer thickness is form about 1.1:1 to about 5:1.

7. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of Claim 6 wherein the ratio of depth filter segment thickness to spacer thickness is from about 1.5 to about 3:1.

8. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of any one of Claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the housing is free of an open void volume downstream of said depth filter.

9. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of any one of Claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the depth filter inserted into the housing is precompressed into its final length.

10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Withdrawn)

12. (Withdrawn)

13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Previously Presented) The filter cartridge of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the media has a surface treatment selected from the group consisting of hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity or a positive or negative charge.

16. (Previously Presented) A process for filtering a slurry which comprises passing a slurry through a filter cartridge as defined in any one of Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12 or 13, and

recovering a filtered slurry from said cartridge.

17. (Original) The process of Claim 16 wherein said slurry is selected from the group consisting of a silica-based slurry, and alumina-based slurry, a ceria-based slurry, a diamond-based slurry, a MnO_2 -based slurry, a cell broth, a photoresist chemical, a fermentation liquid, blood, a blood fraction and a transgenic liquid.

18. (Withdrawn)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

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Amendment

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- 25. (Withdrawn)
- 26. (Withdrawn)
- 27. (Withdrawn)